

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:
  - 5 a receptacle with a first opening and a second opening, wherein the first opening is adapted to receive the vial and the second opening is adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;
  - 10 a slide extending below the second opening and adapted to allow the vial to slide downwardly away from the receptacle; and
  - 15 a flap with a first end thereof pivotally attached to the receptacle near the second opening, wherein the flap extends beyond the second opening and is adapted to contact the vial as the vial leaves the second opening and exert pressure on the vial as the vial moves down the slide.
2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first opening is a broad opening and the second opening is a narrow opening.
3. The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the receptacle includes a narrowing peripheral wall that forms the broad opening and the narrow opening.
- 20 4. The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the broad opening faces upward and the narrow opening faces downward.
5. The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the slide is parallel to a portion of the wall near an end of the slide attached to the receptacle.
- 25 6. The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein the slide is adapted to force the vial into a position parallel to the slide as the vial leaves the receptacle through the narrow opening.
- 30 7. The apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the slide is attached to the wall near the narrow opening at a point opposite the flap.

8. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flap includes a weight secured to a second end thereof.

9. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flap is adapted to 5 pivot away from the vial in response to pressure from the vial to allow the vial to leave the receptacle and move down the slide.

10. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a side wall attached to the receptacle near the narrow opening adapted to maintain the vial on 10 the slide as the vial moves down the slide.

11. The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein the side wall extends between the slide and the flap.

15 12. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a platform attached to the slide and adapted to receive and support the vial after the vial has moved down the slide.

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13. An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:  
a receptacle with a broad opening and a narrow opening, wherein the broad  
opening is adapted to receive the vial and the narrow opening is  
adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;

5 a slide attached to a portion of a wall of the receptacle near the narrow  
opening, extending below the narrow opening parallel to the wall, and  
adapted to allow the vial to slide downwardly away from the  
receptacle; and

a flap with an end thereof pivotally attached to the receptacle near the  
10 narrow opening, wherein the flap extends beyond the narrow opening  
and is adapted to contact the vial as the vial leaves the narrow  
opening, exert pressure on the vial as the vial moves down the slide,  
and pivot away from the vial to allow the vial to move down the slide.

15 14. The apparatus as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a side wall  
attached to the wall near the narrow opening, extending below the narrow opening  
between the slide and the flap, adapted to maintain the vial on the slide as the vial  
moves down the slide.

20 15. The apparatus as set forth in claim 14, further comprising a platform  
attached to the slide and adapted to receive and support the vial after the vial has  
moved down the slide.

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16. An apparatus for dispensing vials, the apparatus comprising:  
a receptacle with a narrowing peripheral wall, which forms a broad opening  
facing upward adapted to receive the vial, and a narrow opening  
facing downward adapted to allow the vial to leave the receptacle;  
5 a slide attached to the wall near the narrow opening and extending below the  
narrow opening parallel to a portion of the wall near an end of the  
slide attached thereto, adapted to force the vial into a position parallel  
to the slide as the vial leaves the receptacle through the narrow  
opening, support the vial as it leaves the receptacle, and allow the vial  
10 to slide downwardly away from the receptacle along the slide;  
a weighted flap with an end thereof pivotally attached to the wall near the  
narrow opening opposite the slide so that the flap extends beyond the  
narrow opening and partially obstructs a path of the vial as the vial  
moves down the slide, the flap adapted to contact the vial as the vial  
15 leaves the narrow opening and moves down the slide, exert pressure  
on the vial to hold the vial against the slide and slow the vial's  
movement, and pivot away from the vial in response to pressure from  
the vial to allow the vial to leave the receptacle and move down the  
slide;  
20 a side wall attached to the wall near the narrow opening, extending below the  
narrow opening between the slide and the flap, adapted to maintain  
the vial on the slide as the vial moves down the slide; and  
a platform attached to the slide and adapted to receive and support the vial  
after the vial has moved down the slide.

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